

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9030

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USSOUTHCOM SCSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4466

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, UY, CI

SUBJ: THE PINOCHET-BORDABERRY MEETING: CHILEAN REACTION

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 1522 (NOTAL) B) MONTEVIDEO 1541 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL IN A LENGTHY COMMENT TO THE CHARGE EXPRESSED MUCH THE SAME REACTION TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S MONTEVIDEO VISIT AS THAT PRESENTED IN REFTELS. EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION IS THAT VISIT WAS A MORAL BOOSTER FOR CHILEAN LEADERS, WHO FEEL HOUNDED BY THE WORLD, BUT THAT FEW CONCRETE STEPS ARE LIKELY TO RESULT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY CHILE WILL TAKE SERIOUS ACTION IN MOVING TOWARD GREATER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION SOON. FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO APPARENTLY MADE EFFORT TO OFFSET PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S HARSH WORDS TO URUGUAYAN JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MAY 3 CALL ON FORMINISTER CARVAJAL ON OTHER
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MATTERS, CHARGE ASKED HIS REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S

VISIT TO URUGUAY THE WEEK BEFORE. CARVAJAL REPLIED IN A LITTLE HOMILY NOTABLE FOR ITS QUIET CONVICTION AND ELOQUENCE, AND FOR A COUPLE OF COMMENTS THAT SELDOM ARE EXPRESSED SO CLEARLY BY CHILEAN LEADERS.

3. AFTER COLLECTING HIS THOUGHTS A MOMENT, CARVAJAL SAID THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY USEFUL, AND THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAD FOUND THEMSELVES VERY MUCH AT HOME WITH EACH OTHER. THEY ALSO HAD FOUND THAT THEIR COUNTRIES HAD MUCH IN COMMON. ECONOMICALLY, EACH WAS DEPENDENT ON ONE EXPORT (MEAT AND COPPER) WHICH HAD COME ON HARD TIMES JUST WHEN THE PRICE OF PETROLEUM HAD GONE UP DRASTICALLY. SO SIMILAR WERE THEIR ECONOMIES THAT THE CHILEAN AND URUGUAYAN DELEGATIONS HAD TO SEARCH FOR COMPLEMENTARY AREAS WHICH WOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ACTION.

4. POLITICALLY THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD ALSO GONE THROUGH THE SAME EXPERIENCE. CARVAJAL SAID THEIR TWO TRADITIONAL, LIBERAL REGIMES HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY EXTREMISM AND TERROR AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COPE. THE MILITARY HAD REACTED IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO IMPOSE PEACE AND ORDER, WITH THE AIM OF BUILDING "A MORE SECURE DEMOCRACY, WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS BUT AT THE SAME TIME GUARANTEE PERSONAL SECURITY." HE ADDED THAT CHILE AND URUGUAY ARE EVEN SIMILAR IN THAT THEIR CATHOLIC CHURCHES ARE INFILTRATED BY COMMUNISM.

5. IN A TELLING STATEMENT, CARVAJAL SAID THEIR KIND OF DEMOCRACY MUST TAKE "PREVENTIVE" (I.E., PREEMPTIVE) MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM--THE SCOURGE OF MODERN LIFE. IF A SOCIETY WAITS FOR TERRORIST ACTS, THE INNOCENT SUFFER AND THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY IS DESTROYED, HE SAID, CITING THE UK; (NORTHERN IRELAND), LEBANON, ITALY AND PORTUGAL AS EXAMPLES. "SOCIETY MUST ENSURE THAT THE INNOCENT ARE NOT HARMED, MERELY BECAUSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN." HE WOUND UP THIS THEME ON THE DIFIANT AND DEFENSIVE NOTE THAT CHILE AND URUGUAY IN THIS ATTITUDE STAND ALONE AGAINST THE WORLD. THE OTHER TRADITIONAL DEMOCRACIES WOULD ALSO LEARN THEIR LESSON AT GREAT COST.

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6. CARVAJAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES PROTECTS THE FREE COUNTRIES FROM SOVIET MILITARY AGGRESSION. WITHOUT THE US UMBRELLA, THE USSR COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, SEND A FLEET AND OCCUPY CHILE. CHILE THUS "DEPENDS" ON THE US FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, BUT IT STILL MUST GO ITS OWN WAY ON THE INTERNAL SIDE. CARVAJAL CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT CHILE, AS URUGUAY, HAD FOUND ITS WAY AND WOULD FOLLOW IT

TO THE END.

7. COMMENT: MUCH OF WHAT EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO SAID ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE VISIT ON URUGUAY HOLDS ALSO FOR CHILE. THE VISIT OBVIOUSLY HAD LESS IMPACT HERE, HOWEVER, SINCE IT TOOK PLACE IN URUGUAY AND BECAUSE THE POLITICAL SITUATION ARE AT DIFFERENT STAGES. CHILEAN LEADERS TALK OFTEN ABOUT MOVING TOWARD A MORE SECURE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, BUT HARDLY ANYONE SERIOUSLY BELIEVES IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THAT SENSE ARE COMING SOON.

8. THE PRINCIPAL GAIN FOR THE GOC SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN A BOOST TO GENERAL MORALE, AS EXPRESSED BY CARVAJAL. FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS HAD TO SCRATCH HARD TO FIND ANY SUBSTANCE FOR THE PRESIDENTS TO HANDLE. THE SIMILARITY IN POLITICAL OUTLOOK AND CIRCUMSTANCES COULD RESULT IN COORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICIES, AS EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO NOTES. BUT TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, THE COORDINATION WOULD HAVE TO EXTEND TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE.

9. WE HAVE SELDOM FOUND CARVAJAL SO MOVED AND SO QUIETLY ELOQUENT. THERE OBVIOUSLY WAS A MEETING OF MINDS IN MONTEVIDEO, AND CARVAJAL FOR ONE DOES NOT FEEL QUITE SO ALONE IN A HOSTILE WORLD. WE ALSO SELDOM GET SUCH A FRANK ADMITTANCE OF CHILE'S ULTIMATE DEPENDENCE ON THE US, HOWEVER DEFIANT THE VERBAL MESSAGE TO US. CARVAJAL'S COMMENT SHOULD BE READ IN THE CONTEXT OF GENERAL PINOCHET'S UNFLATTERING CHARACTERIZATION OF US POLICY AS REPORTED BY MONTEVIDEO PRESS AND PICKED UP HERE. THE GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" CARRIED AN AP ITEM ON APRIL 21 IN WHICH PINOCHET CALLED THE US IMMATURE, INDECISIVE AND UNGRATEFUL.

10. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, URUGUAY'S "EL PAIS" HAD
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QUOTED PINOCHET AS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF US DETENTE POLICY FOR CHILE: "TWO THINGS ARE CLEAR. ONE COUNTRY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS: WORLD DOMINATION. THE OTHER IS VERY IMMATURE AND ALWAYS UNSURE OF ITSELF. ITS UNCERTAINTIES FACILITATE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE A PERFECT EXAMPLE. IT DID NOT COST THE UNITED STATES A SINGLE CENT TO THROW COMMUNISM OUT OF CHILE. NOT A SINGLE SHOT. THIS WAS NO VIETNAM. NOT ONE DEATH (PRESUMABLY PINOCHET MEANS NOT ONE US SOLDIER KILLED-US CITIZENS DIED IN THE 1973 COUP). NEVERTHELESS, SEE FOR YOURSELVES HOW THEY NOW TREAT US, THANKS TO THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED. INSTEAD OF SUPPORTING US ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, THEY REBUFF US." CARVAJAL FACE TO FACE WAS MUCH MORE KIND.

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